

should do it. References are included that give guidance to further reading. The importance of careful history taking is impressed upon the reader, who is also given a short and practical account of the full range of neurological examinations.

Among a wide field of nervous illness, coma is fully discussed in a chapter that will appeal strongly to all who are in active practice. The photographs of angiograms and of encephalograms will interest every doctor whose patients are submitted to these increasingly common aids to accurate diagnosis. Simple examples of the electroencephalogram in normal and in epileptic patients are explained, as are tracings taken in cases of neoplasm and other pathological abnormalities.

Today the patient expects to discuss with his doctor aspects of these examinations, either in the context of their own illness or in seeking advice on behalf of a near relative. Here is a book that will inform and interest us, and enable us the more easily to give wise guidance in such circumstances.

Syphilis of the nervous system and important neurological aspects of psychiatric illness have excellent short sections. Intracranial haemorrhage, polyneuritis, poliomyelitis and the changes in the cerebrospinal fluid in disease, are all lucidly described. Space-occupying pathologies in skull and spinal column, and the problems of peripheral nerve lesions are all dealt with in full and always relevant detail.

Neurology is fast losing its traditional and morphological aspect, and, as is the case with general medicine, it increasingly joins hands with the younger biological sciences. Progress in the study of the auto-immune diseases is already affecting our concepts in such illnesses as encephalomyelitis and disseminated sclerosis; and it is not too much to hope that a not distant future will see many neurological illnesses removed from the shadow of the diagnostically challenging pathology that is all too frequently incurable.

Here is a fine book that many of us will wish to add to the personal library that should be our just pride as well as an essential part of our professional equipment.

Clinical Psychiatry for the Layman. FRANK J. FISH, M.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.M. Bristol. John Wright & Sons Ltd. Pp. i + 59. Price 8s. 6d.

This little book was written by the senior lecturer in psychological medicine at Edinburgh University, mainly for theological students and mental health officers. Dr Fish says it is "of necessity dogmatic"; one might agree the dogmatism while questioning the necessity. Many will feel that the statements such as the following are at least open to argument. "There is no evidence that psychological treatment will cure psychosomatic disorders." "Once a man has been found guilty of such an offence (paedophilia) he must never be allowed to come in contact with children again." "In general it can be said that the neurotic has insight into his illness."

The most useful part of the book is devoted to definitions of signs, symptoms and mechanisms. But for the intelligent layman (or general practitioner) to get a general comprehension of our present knowledge

of the nature of psychological illness Dr Stafford Clark's *Psychiatry Today* in the Pelican series will be of greater value.

Paediatric Aspects of Cerebral Palsy. T. T. S. INGRAM, M.D., F.R.C.P.E., D.C.H. Edinburgh and London. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1964. Pp. xii + 515. Price 84s.

This excellent book is essentially one for the consultant paediatrician. That is the first thought that goes through one's mind, but after reading, it is obviously of great value to the general practitioner for surely all of us, by the very nature of our work are paediatricians. The author has carried out much research into the causation of cerebral palsy in the young and has tabulated the results of his work clearly and succinctly. The book is well illustrated and the bibliography is extensive. A very useful reference book for the general practitioner.

Community, Church and Healing. R. A. LAMBOURNE, B.D., M.B., CH.B., D.P.M. London. Darton, Longman and Todd. Pp. ix + 179. Price 18s.

The author of this book, a physician, psychiatrist, and lay theologian, seeks to emphasize that the healing of the sick is a function, not alone of certain specially trained persons, but of the entire community. He devotes a chapter to going back to the Greek Testament for a careful study of the Greek verbs translated in the Authorised Version as 'heal', 'make whole', 'cleanse', 'restore', explaining their relationships and giving examples of their several uses in the New Testament scriptures. We are thus led to deduce that the sick man is, in fact, the representative of the sick community, and it is for the community, therefore, to minister to his needs. Such ministry covers every act performed in the service of the sick person, from the mundane tasks of cooking, washing and shopping, to medical and nursing care and the giving and receiving of the Church's sacraments. Carried out with love and a true understanding of values this communal ministry not only mobilizes the forces of healing in the sick man himself, but draws those performing it into the radius of the healing influences.

Besides emphasizing the importance of corporate prayer for the sick, the author makes a strong plea for the revival of the rites of Unction and the Laying on of Hands and of the Sacrament of Penance as normal parts of the Church's ministry. While in no sense advocating emotional 'healing services' he suggests that Unction and the Laying on of Hands might well take place publicly within the framework of the Eucharist and might, indeed, be performed by responsible lay members of the congregation acting together with the officiating priest or minister.

A chapter on group psychotherapy explains the benefits, and also the pitfalls, of this method, and a final chapter describes the social services, both voluntary and state controlled, as at present organized.

It is not possible, within the limits of a brief review, to do justice to this stimulating and thought-provoking book, which will repay careful and critical reading by anyone interested in the mutual interaction of medicine and religion.